

## FRENCH INDO-CHINA

shortage of labour since the ousted Annamites naturally refused to work for those whom they regarded as usurpers. The administration had dealt out the whole middle region of Tonkin in twenty concessions, regardless of whether or not this land could be developed by the recipients. Lack of capital and labour resulted in only about an eighth of these concessions being worked. Many had been deceived into dreams of rapid wealth: few roads, no irrigation facilities, and the climate's great hazards were obstacles, but it was the eternal instability of labour that was the worst handicap. And it grew steadily less reliable, for Doumer's public works programme gave higher wages to workmen, made them desert the concessions in a body. During the pacification Ajonamites had been willing to work for Europeans simply to insure their own safety, but this was no longer necessary.

had been De Lanessan's formula for the fixation of labour. la Ms efforts to introduce poppy-growing for the opium *regie*, De had thought that by giving the Tonkinese an interest in the it might arrest their transient character, and that they would better under European supervision. This experiment in *metayage* because of the special conditions in the country at lime, Aa in vagrancy since the beginning of the French regime to the weakening of conuxnmal and parental authority. Under the Aimamite government vagrancy had existed, but the state efforts to reabsorb the delinquent into community life. This dome fay giving Mm land, on the principle that poverty was the of vagrancy and crime. Some of the numerous vagabonds be as labour, though the Annamite proprietors to hire die local villagers rather than the floating

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